

Appl. No. 10/538,914
Am dt dated July 21, 2006
Reply to OA of March 23, 2006

Description of Amendments to the Drawings

By the attached replacement sheet of drawings, figure 1 has been amended by labeling it as prior art.

REMARKS

Claims 9-26 remain in this application.

In response to the examiner's indication that claim 16 would be allowable if written independently, claim 16 has been amended by incorporating into it the same language as presently in amended claim 9.

The examiner indicated that claims 16-18, 21, 22, and 26 contain allowable subject matter. Claim 16 has been made independent, so that clearly claims 16 and 22 should now be allowable. Additionally, claims 20 and 24 depend on allowable claim 16, and thus should also be allowable.

The examiner has objected to referencing a prior art document in the specification without submitting the document in an Information Disclosure Statement. In response to the examiner's objection an Information Disclosure Statement has been filed including document DE 199 28 190 A1.

The examiner has noted that the Information Disclosure Statement filed is not proper for failing to include a brief description of each cited prior art. The prior art that was cited but not considered is from the Search Report of the International Application and should not require a brief description as set forth in the guide for considering international search report references.

The examiner has objected to the drawings for failing to identify Figure 1 as Prior Art. In response to the examiners objection to Prior Art Figure 1, Figure 1 has been amended to include the term "Prior Art".

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The examiner has rejected claim 9 as anticipated by Kawazoe. Claim 9, and also claim 16, have been amended to clarify the specific placement of the layer of insulation. Whereas the insulation layer (4) of the Kawazoe reference is clearly covering along the electrodes (31, 32, 34), see Figures 1B, 10, 11, and 12, in the present invention, as expressed in all of the independent claims, only the area **between** the electrodes, as shown in figure 2 and disclosed in paragraph 23 of the specification, and also as recited in the claims, the insulation covers this only this portion with no tension being added, which is another feature which Kawazoe does not disclose.

In fact, claims 9 and 16 both state that the insulation layer of the invention covers the region between the outer electrodes in a tension free manner, and this is completely opposite from the Kawazoe reference which supplies the insulation layer over the electrodes in a stretched direction, see column 4, lines 2-5.

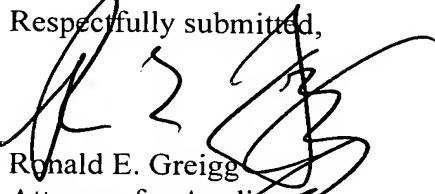
The Commissioner is authorized to charge the fee of \$120.00, for a one-month extension of time as specified in the fee schedule for 2006, or any other fees associated with this communication to Deposit Account Number 07-2100.

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For the above reasons, entry of the amendment and allowance of the claims are courteously solicited.

Date: July 21, 2006

Respectfully submitted,


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Annotated Sheet



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